

15.28.050 – Amendments to the ICC International Fire Code 2015

1. Amend Section 101. 1 to read as follows:

101. 1 Title. These regulations shall be known as the *Fire Code* of "City of St. Charles, Kane and DuPage Counties, Illinois.", hereinafter referred to as "this code"

2. Amend 308.3 as follows:

Under exception #1 delete item 1. 2

3. Add Section 319 as follows:

319 Miscellaneous Provisions

319.1 Tenant Separation. Each tenant space shall be separated from other tenant spaces and corridors by walls, partitions, and floor-ceiling assemblies having at least a one- (1) hour approved fire resistance rating.

4. Add Sections 506.3 as follows:

506.3 Location. The installation of the approved key box shall be approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. The box shall be located not more than six(6') feet above grade. The key box may be supervised by a tamper switch.

5. Add Sections 507.5. 1. 2, 507. 1. 3 & 507. 1. 4

507.5. 1. 2 Hydrants shall be located approximately ten (10) feet from an all-weather roadway. If this cannot be done, the closest part of the hydrant shall be set back at least five (5) feet from the curb line.

507.5.13 Access to fire hydrants shall be all-weather roadways adequate in width, clearance and strength for fire fighting purposes. Such routes, including private roadways, shall be maintained accessible during all seasons of the year. Legal provisions will be required for private roads.

507.5.1.4 Firehydrants shall meet the requirements of the- City of St. Charles and the standards of the American Water Works Association, and shall have two (2) two and one-half (2 1/2) inch outlets and one (1) four and one-half (4 1/2) inch outlet with auxiliary gate valves on the hydrant branch line. Threads shall be American National Standard. Pumper outlets shall face roadways.

6. Add Section 605. 11 as follows:

605.11 Service Disconnects. Service disconnecting means shall be provided either outside the building or via a key operated remote control, located at the fire alarm control panel or other approved location, and shall have provisions to allow the service to be locked open. Each building/tenant space shall have a main disconnect incorporated within the main distribution panel inside the space.

7. Amend Section 901.6.2

901.6.2 Records: Records of all systems inspections, tests and maintenance required by the referenced standards shall be maintained on the premises for a minimum of three years and shall be copied to the *fire code official* upon request.

8. Amend Section 901. 7

901. 7 System out of service. Where a required fire protection system is out of service, the fire department and the fire code official shall be notified immediately and, where required by the fire code official, the building shall either be evacuated or an approved fire watch shall be provided for all occupants left unprotected by the shut down until the fire protection system has been returned to service. Fire protection systems shall not be out of service for more than twenty-four (24) hours for maintenance or repairs. Where utilized, fire watches shall be provided with at least one approved means for notification of the fire department and their only duty shall be to perform constant patrols of the protected premises and keep watch for fires.

9. Delete the provisions in Section 903. 2" Automatic Sprinkler Systems— Where Required" inclusive of subsections 903.2.1, 903.2.2, 903.2.3, 903.2.4, 903.2.6; 903.2.7, 903.2.9 and 903.2.10 and substitute the following therefore:

903.2 Where required. Notwithstanding any language to the contrary, that is contained elsewhere in this code, an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with the provisions of all applicable codes and standards shall be provided and maintained in full operating condition throughout every story and basement of all Use Groups as listed in section 302.1 of the International Building Code.

Exceptions:

1. Structures not considered to be habitable, or occupiable of less than 5000 square-feet, with a low fire or life hazard risk and located not less than 30 feet from another structure. Buildings of this type would normally be classified within the Utility and Miscellaneous Group U as described in section 312 of the *International Building Code*, Provided:

a. The structure is continually monitored by an approved automatic fire alarm system.

2. Open Parking Garages

The requirements, contained in these exceptions, shall be subject to modifications by the authority having jurisdiction to compensate for particular building conditions to meet the intention of the code

10. Amend Section 903. 6 and add 903. 6. 1 as follows:

903.6.1 Change of use classification. Notwithstanding any language to the contrary contained elsewhere in the codes adopted, an automatic sprinkler system shall be provided throughout a building, when the use classification of the building or a space within the building changes, provided one-of the following conditions exists:

1. If the new or proposed use is more hazardous; based on life and fire risk, than the existing use..(see table 903.6. 1)

This requirement shall be subject to modifications by the authority having jurisdiction to compensate for particular building conditions.

Hazard Category**903.6.1**

Relative Hazard	Occupancy Classifications
1 (highest hazard)	H
2	I-2, I-3, I-4
3	A, E, I-1, M, R-1, R-2, R-4
4	B, F-1, R-3, S-1
5 (lowest hazard)	F-2, S-2, U

11. Delete the provisions of Section 907.2 "Where required" including the exceptions and substitute, the following therefore:

907.2 Where required. An approved fire alarm system installed in accordance with the provisions of this code and NFPA 72 shall be provided in new buildings and structures in accordance with Sections 907.2.1 through 907.2.23 and provide occupant notification in accordance with 907.5, unless other requirements are provided by another section of this code: Notwithstanding any provision of Section 907 and its subsections to the contrary, an approved manual fire alarm signaling system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5, shall be installed and maintained in all buildings over one (1) story in height or over 1,000 square feet.

12. Delete the provisions of Section 907.9 "Where required in existing buildings and structures" and substitute the following therefore:

907.9 Where required in existing buildings and structures. An approved fire alarm system shall be installed in existing buildings and structures where required in chapter 11. Notwithstanding any provision of Section 907, Section 1103.7 or their subsections to the contrary, an approved manual fire alarm signaling system that activates the occupant notification system in accordance with Section 907.5, shall be installed and maintained in all buildings over one (1) story in height or over 1,000 square feet.

13. Delete the provisions of Section 907.6.6.1 "automatic telephone-dialing devices".

14. Amend the provisions of Section 912. 1 "Installation" and substitute the following therefore:

912A Installation. The type (Siamese, Storz) and size of the fire department connection shall be in accordance with the NFPA standard applicable to the system design, shall comply with Sections 912.2 through 912.7 and be subject to approval of the Fire Department. Generally, a 5- inch size, Storz type connection with a 30 degree downturn is required

15. Delete exception #2 to section 914.6.1

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16. Amend item# 5 and add items 6 & 7 to Section 11008.3.3 "Rooms and Spaces" as follows:

5. All restrooms

6. In all rooms and spaces over 1,000 square feet in area with an occupancy load of 20, or more:

7. All occupiable mechanical rooms

17. Amend Table 1020.1 to read as follows:

Table 1020.1

Corridor Fire Resistance Rating

Occupancy	Occupant Load Served by Corridor	Required Fire-Resistance Rating (Hours)	
		Without Sprinkler System	With Sprinkler System (c)
H-1, H-2, H-3	All	Not Permitted	1
H-4, H-5	Greater than 30	Not Permitted	1
A,E,F,M,S,U	Greater than 30	Not Permitted	1
R	Greater than 10	Not Permitted	1
I-2 (a), I-4	All	Not Permitted	1 (b)
B	Greater than 30	Not Permitted	1 (d)

(a) for requirements for occupancies in Group I-2, see Section 407.3

(b) For a reduction in the fire-resistance rating of occupancies in Group 1- 3, see Section 408. 7.

(c) Buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system-in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 where allowed.

(d) Glass permitted in wall

18. Amend Section 2306.2.2" Above- ground tanks located inside buildings" to read as follows:.

2306.2.2 Above-ground tanks located inside buildings. Above-ground tanks for the storage of Class I, II and IIIA liquid fuels are not allowed to be located in buildings.

19. Amend Section 2306.2.3" Above-ground tanks located outside" to read as follows:

2306.2.3 Above-ground tanks located outside, above grade. The storage of flammable or combustible liquids in outside above-ground tanks is prohibited within the corporate limits of the City of St. Charles, Illinois, except by Special Permit issued by the fire Chief. Compliance with the following criteria is required for the issuance of a Special Use Permit for such use:

1. Above ground tanks used for outside, above-grade storage of Class I liquids shall be listed and labeled as protected above-ground tanks in accordance with UL 2085 and shall be installed in accordance with Chapter 34.5.7. Such tanks shall be located in accordance with Table 2306.2.3.

2. Above-ground tanks used for outside, above- grade storage of Class II or IIIA liquids shall be listed and labeled as protected above-ground tanks in accordance with UL 2085 and shall be installed in accordance with Chapter 57. Tank locations shall be in accordance with Table 2306.2.3.

Exception: Other above-ground tanks that comply with Chapter 57 where approved by the Fire Code Official.

3. Tanks containing fuels shall not exceed 1000 gallons in individual capacity or 1000 gallons in aggregate capacity. Installations with the maximum allowable aggregate capacity shall be separated from other such installations by not less than 100 feet.

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4. Tanks located at farms, construction projects, or rural areas shall comply with Section 5706.2.
- 5: Above-ground tanks used for outside, above-grade storage of Class 11B liquid motor fuel shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 142 or listed and labeled as protected above-ground tanks in accordance with UL 2085 and shall be installed in accordance with Chapter 57. Tank locations shall be in accordance with Table 2306.2.3.
- 6: Above-ground tanks shall not be used for the outside storage of motor fuels at automotive service stations.
7. A site plan for the installation of the aboveground tank shall be submitted to the Fire Official showing all buildings and structures on the same parcel.
8. At least 2 (two) fire hydrants shall be provided, with an average spacing of 300 feet, 1 (one) of the required fire hydrants shall be within 300 feet of the aboveground tank.
 - a. The minimum fire flow for each hydrant shall be 2000 GPM for a 2 hour duration.
9. The aboveground tank shall be protected with physical barriers per Section 312.2.
- 10: Aboveground storage tank(s) shall not be for use by the general public nor shall any liquid contained in an aboveground tank be transferred into any type vessel or device to be used or controlled by the general public. Mobile fueling shall not be allowed unless approved by the Fire Code Official and all requirements from the Office of the State Fire Marshal have been met.
11. No liquid shall be stored in an aboveground tank that has a flash point less than that of gasoline or - 36 to - 45 degrees F.
12. An automatic shutoff device capable of stopping the delivery of fuel into a storage tank at 90% of the tank capacity shall be provided.
13. Tank contents must be transferred by means of fixed pumps only. Pumps must be designed and equipped so as to prevent accidental discharge.
14. All tank openings associated with piping, vents, and inspections, shall be through the top of the tank only.
15. Approved anti-siphon devices shall be installed at each connection of the piping to the tank when such piping extends below the level of the top of the tank.
16. U.L. listed, portable ABC type fire extinguisher(s) shall be provided.
17. No parking is allowed within 50 feet of an aboveground tank.
18. All aboveground tank plans must include the following:
 - a. Site plans as mentioned above.
 - b. Aboveground tank details including all piping systems, pump and transfer systems, manufacturer' s tank specifications, and all site protection, safety equipment, and safety signage per NFPA 704.
 - c. The aboveground tank requires a City of St. Charles Building Permit, and 4(four) sets of plans and specifications are required.
 - d: Approval for all aboveground tank installations shall be by the Fire Code Official, The Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Building Official.

TABLE 2306.2.3

MINIMUM SEPARATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ABOVE-GROUND TANKS

CLASS OF LIQUID AND TANK TYPE	INDIVIDUAL TANK CAPACITY (gallons)	MINIMUM DISTANCE FROM NEAREST IMPORTANT BUILDING ON SAME PROPERTY (feet)	MINIMUM DISTANCE FROM NEAREST FUEL DISPENSER (feet)	MINIMUM DISTANCE FROM LOT LINE WHICH IS OR CAN BE BUILT UPON, INCLUDING THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF A PUBLIC WAY (feet)	MINIMUM DISTANCE FROM NEAREST SIDE OF ANY PUBLIC WAY (feet)	MINIMUM DISTANCE BETWEEN TANKS (feet)
Class I protected above-ground tanks or tanks in vaults	1000	15	25a	25	15	3
Class II and III protected above ground tanks or tanks in vaults	Same as Class I	Same as Class I	Same as Class I	Same as Class I	Same as Class I	Same as Class I
Other tanks	All	50	50	100	50	3

For SI: 1 foot= 304.8 mm 1 gallon—3.785 L.

a. At fleet vehicle motor fuel-dispensing facilities, no minimum separation distance is required

20. Amend Section 5003. 1 " Scope" to read as follows:

5003.1 Scope. The storage, use and handling of all hazardous materials shall be in accordance with this Section and Exhibit A.

21. Add Section 5601.2 "Permit required" to read as follows:

5601.2 Permit required. Permits shall be required as set forth in Section 105.6 and regulated in accordance with this section. An application for permit, on a form developed by the Fire Official, shall be made in writing at least Sixty(60) days in advance of the display of fireworks or discharge of explosives.

22. Amend Section 5705. 1 " Scope" to read as follows:

5705.1 Scope. Dispensing, use, mixing and handling of flammable liquids shall be in accordance with Section 5703 and this Section: Tank vehicle and tank car loading and unloading and other special operations shall be in accordance with Section 5706. Flammable or combustible liquids shall not be dispensed by gravity from tanks, drums, barrels or

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similar containers. Approved pumps that take suction from the top of the container shall be used. Unattended dispensing operations by the general public shall be prohibited. Mobile fueling shall not be allowed unless approved by the Fire Code Official and all requirements from the Office of the State Fire Marshall have been met. No tank vehicle shall be left unattended on any lot, street, highway, avenue, alley, or any other location, public or private.

Exception:

1. Containers of organic coatings having no fire point and which are opened for pigmentation are not required to comply with this Section.

23. Add section 6101. 4. " Storage Prohibited/ Permit Required" to read as follows:

6101.4 Storage Prohibited/ Permit Required. Aboveground storage of liquefied petroleum gas utilizing one or more containers having a total capacity of over 1, 000 gallons water capacity shall be prohibited.

24. Add section 6101. 5 to read as follows:

61015 Parking Restrictions. No tank vehicle shall be left unattended on any lot, street, highway, avenue, alley or any other location, public or private:

25. Add Exhibit A:

Exhibit A

Performance Guidelines for High Hazard Uses in the City of St. Charles

1. Specific location: The geographic location and distances to other structures, rivers, streams, and other use groups.
2. Zoning: The proximate distances to assembly, educational, institutional, and residential uses and vacant land zoned for these uses.
3. Types of hazardous materials which are not allowed: Materials listed in Section 307.3 High Hazard Group H- 1 that present a detonation hazard shall not be permitted under any circumstances.
4. Allowable construction types: Type I and II only.
5. Required fire protection for High Hazard materials:
 - a. Provide extra hazard Group H fire sprinkler-system
 - b. Provide a fixed foam fire protection system
6. Required water supply system: 3,000 to 6,000 gallons per minute from a reliable source.

15.28.060 Emergency Conditions.

In case there shall be, in the opinion of the Fire Official, actual and immediate danger to life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion arising from the storage, handling, or use of hazardous substances, materials, or devices, or from conditions hazardous to life and property in the use or occupancy of buildings or premises the Fire Official shall employ such labor and machinery, equipment and devices and cause the necessary work to be done to render said occupants or property temporarily safe, whether the procedure prescribed in this section has been instituted or not.

A. Where practical and time constraints permit, the owner, occupant or other person responsible for the emergency condition shall be notified of the emergency condition, in writing, and shall have the option of making the condition safe.
B. The owner and occupants of the premises shall be jointly and severally liable for any costs incurred in connection with the same.

C. The Fire Official of the City of St. Charles, Illinois shall cause proper action to be instituted against the owner of the premises, and the occupants if different than the owners, for the recovery of costs incurred by the City of St. Charles, Illinois, in the performance of the emergency work.

D. For the purposes of this Article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them:

a. " Hazardous Substance" or " Hazardous Material" means any substance or material or mixture of substances which is toxic, corrosive, an irritant, strong sensitizer, radioactive, flammable, combustible, or which generates pressure through decomposition; heat or other means and which may cause injury or illness to humans, domestic livestock, or wildlife or as defined by the Illinois Environmental Protection Act or any federal law.

b. "Hazardous material Incident" means an incident which threatens public health or safety involving the actual or potential release of a hazardous substance or hazardous material.

c. "Toxic" means any substance(other than a radioactive substance) which has the capacity to produce bodily injury or illness to man through ingestion, inhalation, or

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absorption through any body surface.

d. "Corrosive" means any substance which, in contact with living tissue, causes destruction of tissue by chemical reaction, but does not refer to action on inanimate surfaces.

e. "Irritant" means any substance, no corrosive, which, on immediate, prolonged or repeated contact with normal living tissue, will induce local inflammatory reaction.

f. "Strong Sensitizer" means any substance which will cause on normal living tissue through an allergic or photo dynamic process, a hypersensitivity of the same substance.

g. "Radioactive" means any substance which emits ionizing radiation.

h. "Flammable" means any substance which has a flash point of less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit. is "Combustible" means substance with a flash point greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

j. "Person" shall mean any individual, partnership, corporation, trust, firm, company, estate, association, or other legal entity.

Control of Hazardous Substances or Hazardous Materials:

a. It shall be unlawful for any person to use, store, deliver or transport hazardous substances or hazardous materials, or cause the use, storage, delivery of transporting of hazardous substances or hazardous materials in any manner inconsistent with the requirements of the Fire Prevention Code of the City of St. Charles, or any other applicable City ordinance, County ordinance, State law or Federal law.

b. It shall be unlawful for any motor vehicle carrying, transporting or containing a hazardous substance or hazardous material to park or stand, other than temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaging in, loading or unloading, on private property, without the knowledge and express consent of the person who is in charge of the property and who is aware of the nature of the hazardous substance or hazardous material the motor vehicle contains.

c. It shall be unlawful for any person using, storing, manufacturing, producing, disposing, treating, transporting or causing the use, storage, manufacture, production, disposal, treatment or transportation of any hazardous substance or hazardous material in any manner which results in a hazardous materials incident.

Hazardous Materials or Hazardous Substance Incident Expense Recovery:

a. Any person causing or permitting a hazardous material incident, shall be responsible for all of the following:

1) Reimbursement in full, of any and all costs incurred by the CITY in connection with the operation (including equipment and vehicles), maintenance, and staffing required to respond to such hazardous materials incident. Vehicles and staffing will be charged the hourly rate of pay, including overtime expenses and overhead costs, for each employee who participates in such response to a hazardous materials incident. Any maintenance costs incurred by the CITY will be reimbursed at the rate of time and materials.

2) Reimbursement, in full, for any and all costs incurred by the CITY for equipment and materials used, damage, lost, spent, destroyed or rendered irreparable in connection with a hazardous materials incident.

3) Assumption of and all liability and costs for any cleanup or removal resulting from any hazardous material incident, including but not limited to any independent cleanup contractor necessitated by such hazardous material incident.

4) Any and all costs and reasonable, attorney's fees, incurred in connection with the enforcement of the Ordinance and any collection undertaken hereunder.

b. The City of St. Charles shall prepare and forward to the person or persons causing or permitting a hazardous material incident a bill for the total costs and expenses incurred for which such person or persons are responsible pursuant to this Section; provided, however, any costs in connection with any independent cleanup contractor shall be billed directly by such contractor. Payment of the total bill shall be made within thirty (30) days of receipt. Any bill or portion of a bill remaining unpaid after thirty (30) days of receipt shall accrue interest on the unpaid balance at the rate of 1 1/2% per month, or fraction of month.

Limitation of Liability: The City, its officers, agents or employees, shall not have any liability or responsibility for any claim, injury, or damage of any kind resulting from a hazardous material incident to which the City or any of its departments, officers, agents or employees responds.

Invalidity: Should any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Ordinance be declared a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid.

15.28.070 New materials, processes or occupancies requiring permits.

The Building Official, the Chief of the Fire Department, and the Chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention shall act as a committee to determine and specify, after giving affected persons an opportunity to be heard, any new materials; processes or occupancies; which shall require permits, in addition to those now enumerated in the Fire Prevention Code. The Chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention shall post such list in a conspicuous place in his office, and distribute copies thereof to interested persons.

Ord. 2004-M-76 § 1; Ord. 1978- M-37 Art.,5 (F).)

15.28:080 Violation- Penalty.

Any violations of this Chapter shall be enforced and prosecuted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 15.101 of the St. Charles Municipal code. The Chief of the Fire Department shall have all of the rights and responsibilities given to the Building Official under Chapter 15.101 for the prosecution and enforcement of any violations under this chapter.

Ord. 2004-M-76 § 1; Ord. 1978-M-37 Art. 5 (G).)

15.28:090- FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

A. Purpose and Intent - The ordinance codified in this chapter is adopted for the purpose of regulating and permitting fire alarm systems to which the fire department is expected to respond and to supplement the provisions of the ICC International Fire Prevention Code, 2015 edition and the NEPA 101 Life Safety Code, 2015 edition as previously adopted.

B. Applicability- The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all fire alarm systems used and operated within the jurisdiction of the St. Charles Fire Department.

- i. The provisions of this article shall not apply to any electric, wired, or battery operated, single station smoke detectors installed to alert the occupants of any single-family residence to the danger of a fire.
- ii. For the purpose of supplementing the provisions contained in this article, the City Council hereby adopts NFPA 72 - National Fire Alarm code, as referenced in the adopted Fire Prevention Code, published by the National Fire Protection Association.

C. Permit Required

- i. It is unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, corporation or other entity to use, own or lease a fire alarm system or to be in control of a protected premise, wherein an alarm system is operated or maintained without having first obtained a permit as provided in this chapter.
- ii. It is unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, corporation or other legal entity to use, own or lease an alarm system or to be in control of a protected premises wherein an alarm system is operated or maintained when a permit therefore has been revoked.
- iii. A permit must be obtained for each separately addressed operating location.
- iv. No fee shall be charged to obtain an alarm user permit.
- v. All permits issued are valid indefinitely unless revoked.

D. Permit Application- For every new fire alarm system and any time there is a change in the information required by this section, every fire alarm user shall file a completed or amended application for a fire alarm permit with the Fire Department for review and approval.

i. Each applicant for a permit to maintain a fire alarm system shall file a written application with the Fire Department stating:

- a. The full legal name, address and telephone number of the applicant.
- b. The name, address and telephone number of the proposed protected premises where the fire-alarm is located.
- c. Any fire alarm system designed to transmit a signal to a fire alarm monitoring agency shall include the name, address, and telephone number of said agency.
- d. The type of fire alarm system at the protected premises.
- e. A list of three persons, including their addresses and telephone numbers, who can be contacted and will respond to the protected premises in the event of an emergency or to reset or deactivate the fire alarm system, or who could contact the alarm user if the alarm user is not at the protected premises.
- f. The name, address, and telephone number of the fire alarm company that installed the fire alarm.
- g. The name, address, and telephone number of the fire alarm company that is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the fire alarm system, if applicable.

ii. Incomplete applications shall be returned to the applicant:

a. A permit will not be issued until the completed application is received and the Fire Chief or his designate has granted approval for the permit.

iii. An application for an alarm user permit shall be denied if.

- a. The applicant has failed to pay false fire alarm fees required by this ordinance for a different protected premises under the applicant's ownership or control.
- b. The applicant has failed to comply with any provisions of this ordinance or other ordinances of the city.

- iv. The Fire Chief or his designate shall be responsible for processing and issuing alarm user permits:
- v. It shall be unlawful for any alarm user to fail or refuse to amend its alarm user permit application within 14 days after any of the information required and obtained therein becomes outdated or inaccurate.

E. Alarm Activation at a Protected Premises Where an Alarm User Permit has not Been Issued- Each notice to the Tri-Com Communications Center or the Fire Department of an activation of a fire alarm system at the protected premises, protected by a fire alarm which is not permitted shall be considered a separate violation of this chapter and any alarm user who does not have a valid fire alarm user permit will be assessed a fine in the amount of \$300.

F. Transfer of Alarm User Permit. Prohibited - A fire alarm user permit cannot be transferred to another premises onto another person.

G. False Alarms Prohibited- It shall be unlawful for any person to start or spread any false alarm of fire or to knowingly activate a fire alarm system for the purpose of summoning the Fire Department except if such person knows or suspects that there is an actual emergency or fire condition on the premises.

H. False Alarms- Fines— Notifications- A response fee shall be imposed to all fire alarm users to reimburse the Fire Department for the increased costs associated with responding to excess false fire alarms from any fire alarm system at a single protected location.

1. Any alarm user who has more than three (3) false fire alarms within a calendar year at a single protected location will be assessed fines according to the following fine schedule:

- a. Four to five false fire alarms: \$ 50 fine per false fire alarm
- b. Six to ten false fire alarms; \$100 fine per false fire alarm
- c. More than ten false fire alarms: \$300 fine per false fire alarm

2. After the third, recorded false alarm within any calendar year for any alarmed premises, the Fire Chief or his designee shall send an invoice for response fees to the fire alarm user. Such invoice shall be sent by postage paid U.S. mail or personally delivered to the user of the alarmed premises where the false fire alarm(s) occurred.

3. Any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, association, organization, company or other entity in control of a protected premises where an alarm system is located accused of a violation of this article may settle and compromise the claim or violation by paying the invoice for response fees to the City, within thirty (30) days of after it is mailed. Payment of such claim or claims shall be made at the Finance Department of the City. In the event such claim or claims are not paid within thirty (30) days, or if the alarm user otherwise contests the validity of the claim a complaint or notice to appear in court may be issued for the alleged violation.

4. The alarm user shall have the opportunity within fourteen (14) days from the date of mailing or personal delivery, to submit a written request or meet with the Fire Chief for the purpose of showing cause as to whether circumstances exist to warrant voiding the invoice for response fees due false fire alarm activations. The Fire Chief shall review the alarm user's report and/or meet with the alarm user and issue a written finding to the alarm user as to whether or not the invoice for response fees due false fire alarm activations will be voided. The finding of the Fire Chief shall be final.

5. Any fire-alarm user that exceeds the level of ten (10) false fire alarms per calendar year shall be required to enroll in the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) fire alarm certificate program. Such certificated users shall be subject to the UL random system inspections. Enrollment in this program would cease when the fire alarm user has demonstrated to the Fire Chief or his designate that the fire alarm system no longer transmits false fire alarms on a recurring basis.

I. False Fire Alarm Determinations

i. There shall be a presumption that a fire alarm activation was a false fire alarm where the Fire Chief or his designee determines that:

- a. There is no evidence of a fire or other smoke, heat, or noxious fume condition on the protected premises that would warrant a call for immediate response from the Fire Department.
- b. There is no evidence that extraordinary weather conditions, electrical power failures, transmission line malfunctions or other circumstances beyond the control of the alarm user caused the activation of the fire alarm.

ii. Whenever a new fire-alarm system is installed, no fire alarm activation from such an alarmed premises shall be deemed to be a false fire alarm within the meaning of this chapter for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days after the approved installation of said fire alarm system.

J. Testing Equipment- No person shall conduct or cause to be conducted any test or demonstration of any fire alarm system or signaling device which causes the Fire Department to be dispatched. All systems shall be put in "test" with the pertinent central station prior to testing and be placed back in service after the testing or work has been completed. Any test, which is not preceded immediately by notification to the pertinent central station, shall be deemed a false fire alarm as defined by this chapter.

K. No Liability of City- The city assumes no liability for any defects in the operation of any fire alarm system or signal line system for any failure or neglect of any person associated with the installation or maintenance of any fire alarm system, for any failure or neglect of any alarm user, for the transmission or receipt of fire alarm signals, or any failure or neglect to

respond upon receipt of an fire alarm from any source. In the event that the city finds it necessary to allow for the disconnection of any fire alarm system, the city shall have no liability for-such action. No special duty other than that owed to the general public shall be created by virtue of this ordinance or by virtue of the issuance of a fire alarm system permit or receipt of alarm signals by the Tri-Com Communications Center.

L. Severability- If any provision, clause, sentence, paragraph; section or part of this chapter or application there of to any person or circumstance, shall for any reason be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, said judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this chapter in the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances but shall be confined in its operation, to the provision, clause, sentence, paragraph, -section, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been, rendered and to the person or circumstance involved. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent of the City Council that this chapter would have been adopted had such unconstitutional or invalid provisions, clause, sentence, paragraph, section, or part thereof not been included.

M. Penalty for Violation- Any person, firm, or corporation violating any provisions of this Section are subject to, specific fines established in this Section, or as otherwise provided in this code. Each day during which a violation in this section continues or is permitted to exist shall be considered a separate and distinct offense.

(2016-M-9 : § 1; 2010-M-44 : § 1; 2004-M-76 : § 1; 1988-M-15 : § 1; 1978-M-37 : Art. 5 (part))